

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated January 6, 2010. Claims 11 to 17 are in the application, with Claim 11 being independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant has not yet received an acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority or receipt of the certified copy. Such acknowledgment is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendments made herein.

Claims 11 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,667,596 (Tsuzuki). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the claims as recited by Claim 11, a second transparent-electrode-layer removed portion which does not contain the transparent electrode layer is provided in a region to which the welded portion of the rear surface side bus-bar electrode is opposed, with the metal substrate disposed between said region and the welded portion.

Tsuzuki is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

The Office Action cites to Figures 2a and 3a of Tsuzuki, and alleges that the portion above the conductive base plate and underneath copper foil (202 or 302) corresponds to the claimed second transparent-electrode-layer removed portion. However, nowhere is Tsuzuki seen to disclose that this portion does not contain a transparent

electrode layer. Rather, according to Examples 2 and 3 of Tsuzuki, pattern (201 or 301) is the only portion that is etched. As such, it is Applicant's understanding that pattern (201 or 301) is the only portion that does not contain a transparent electrode layer. Copper foil (202 or 302) is seen to be formed on a transparent electrode layer, such that the portion above the conductive base plate and underneath copper foil (202 or 302) contains the transparent electrode layer.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the claims and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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